

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 to 9 as follows:

1. (Amended) A polypeptide consisting of
a first amino acid sequence that is identical to (1) amino acids 1-104 of a naturally occurring hepadnavirus pre-S protein or (2) a fragment of amino acids 1-104 of the pre-S protein, provided that the fragment includes at least amino acids 80-102 of the pre-S protein; and
one or more amino acid sequences that are not identical to any part of the pre-S protein.
2. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-104, 25-104, 42-102, and 59-104 of SEQ ID NO:34.
3. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-102, 25-102, and 59-102 of SEQ ID NO:34.
4. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the first amino acid sequence is amino acids 80-102 or 80-104 of SEQ ID NO:34.
5. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of a glutathione S-transferase.
6. (Amended) A polypeptide consisting of
a first amino acid sequence that is identical to (1) amino acids 25-161 of a naturally occurring hepadnavirus pre-S protein or (2) a fragment of amino acids 25-161 of the pre-S protein, provided that the fragment includes at least amino acids 98-161 of the pre-S protein; and
one or more amino acid sequences that are not identical to any part of the pre-S protein.

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7. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the first amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 87-161, 26-161, 59-161, 71-161, and 80-161 of SEQ ID NO:34.

8. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the first amino acid sequence is amino acids 92-161 or 98-161 of SEQ ID NO:34.

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9. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 6, wherein polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of a glutathione S-transferase.

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